Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* That depends upon the nature of the irregularity. If it is inevitable they cannot be punished. If there is neglect they will be punished.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ടി. ജേക്കബ്ബ്: പണ്ടുപണ്ടുണ്ടു റാത്തൽ കുറവാണെങ്കിൽ ആ ഷാപ്പുകാരനെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുമോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* That depends upon the particular instance. How can I say?

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi):* If near relatives of the ration shop-keepers are appointed as field officers, will the Government see that these ration shop-keepers and the field officers are kept at distant places so that there may not be any complaint?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Certainly. If it comes to my notice that the field officer has any connection with the ration shop-keepers he is not posted generally to that area. To my knowledge it is so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* But it will take a very long time to bring any matter to your notice.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No, it is being done now.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ടി. ജേക്കബ്ബ്: ശർക്കര ഒലിച്ചുപോകുന്നതാണല്ലൊ? എന്നാൽ ഒലിച്ചുപോകാത്ത അരി മുതലായ സാധനങ്ങൾ കുറുകുമ്പോൾ ശർക്കര കുറുകുമ്പോൾ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള ശിക്ഷതന്നെയാണൊ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു"?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* How can I say that? Jaggery is an article which melts easily in some climates. Rice will not melt like that. So if shortage is seen in rice the punishment will sometimes be severe.

Mr. M. O. Thomakutty *(Commerce and Industry):* It is seen that an amount of over Rs.4,600 has been drawn by the Director of Food Supplies as travelling allowance and yet he has not visited many ration shops.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* His assumption is not correct. I am going to these shops very often. What I said was it is not possible to go to every ration shop every month.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. ഒ. തോമക്കുട്ടി: ശമ്പളക്കാരൻ ചെയ്യുന്ന കുറത്തിനു എങ്ങിനെയാണു" ഷാപ്പുടമസ്ഥൻ കുറക്കാരനായിതീരുന്നതു". അയതിനു ശമ്പളക്കാരൻ തന്നെയല്ലെ ഉത്തരവാദി?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It was found that it was a private transaction between the employee and the purchaser without the knowledge of the man who conducted the shop.

Mr. P. A. Muhamad Ashrof *(Cranganur):* Some action should have been taken against the shopowner also.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* But it was found that the shop owner had no complicity in this.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ടി. ജേക്കബ്ബ്: ചിലപ്പോഴെല്ലാം ശമ്പളക്കാരനാണു" ചെയ്യുതെന്നു തോന്നും. എന്നാൽ അതു ഉടമസ്ഥനും അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടായിരിക്കും. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള കാര്യത്തിനല്ലല്ലൊ ഈ ശിക്ഷ? ഇതിനെ കുറിച്ചന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടൊ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Was this irregularity committed in the course of the business?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No.

ARTICLE IN THE "DEENABANDHU" DATED 6TH JUNE 1946.

255. Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) has the Government's attention been drawn to an article in the "Deenabandhu" dated 6th June 1946 under the caption "കൈക്കൂലി"

(*b*) what enquiry, if any, was conducted in the matter and with what results?

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The remarks of the Deputy Tahsildar of Cranganur were called for and it was found that the press report was untrue.

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മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. പോൾ: ഈ ലേഖനം ആരെപ്പറ്റിയായിരുന്നു?

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The allegation was that the clerks of the Tahsildar's Office, Cranganur, said that if something is paid to them they would do a certain thing. That was the nature of the observation in the cutting.

മിസ്റ്റർ പറമ്പി ലോനപ്പൻ: ഇതു ശരിയാണെന്നുകണ്ടാൽ ഈ പത്രാധിപരെ പ്രോസിക്യൂട്ട് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതല്ലെ?

റാവു സാഹിബ് എ. മാധവപ്രഭു: വാസ്തവത്തിൽ അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തശ്ശൻ: ആ കടലാസ്സിന്റെ പബ്ലിക്കേഷൻതന്നെ നിറുത്തണമെന്നു ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട മെമ്പർക്കഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പറമ്പി ലോനപ്പൻ: എനിക്കു അങ്ങിനെ ഒന്നും ഇല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ടി. ജേക്കബ്: ഈ കള്ളപ്രസ്താവന ചെയ്തു—ഈ കുറ്റം ചെയ്തു—ആരായാലും ആ ആളുടെ പേരിൽ നടപടികളെടുക്കേണ്ടതല്ലെ?

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* This is a rare case so far as my department is concerned. So I thought no further action was necessary.

മിസ്റ്റർ പറമ്പി ലോനപ്പൻ: ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു അതിനുള്ള ധൈര്യമുണ്ടോ എന്നാണ് ചോദിക്കുന്നതു?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I want an answer to that question, Sir.

Mr. President: What is the question?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Whether the Government is bold enough to take action?

Mr. President: The degree of Government's boldness, I think, is a matter of opinion.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether the editor in question was asked whether he was in a position to substantiate the charges?

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It was not the editor who wrote that, but it was a correspondent. His name was given to us but intrinsically the report was a falsehood. So without questioning him we could come to that conclusion. The nature of the allegation is as follows. On a day when the Deputy Tahsildar was not in the station, somebody approached for a permit which is ordinarily called a Rehadari. Then one peon is alleged to have said, if you pay something I shall see that you get it. It is said that it was at the instance of the clerk that the peon said so. The clerk told this man that the permit could not be given; then this man was loitering in the hope that somebody will approach him and offer to give it if he paid something. Some peon came, that is what the correspondent says—the clerk had said no"—the peon came and said, if you pay me eight annas I will give you the permit because there is a blank paper signed by the Tahsildar which can be made use of for this purpose. On the very face of it, it is false. The Deputy Thasildar had not given to the officer any blank papers signed". When such a falsehood is put forward in the paper, there is no necessity to further investigate that matter. The Tahsildar never gave any blank paper signed by him for any purpose.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is the statement, that the Tahsildar did not give any blank paper signed by him, the result of any enquiry or the presumption that the Tahsildar is not likely to give such a paper?

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is the result of the enquiry and is reported by the Tahsildar himself.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Irinjalakkuda):* Do the Government concede that the editor of a paper is equally responsible for false reports?

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* That may be the law. The law has to be looked into.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* He must take possible steps to verify the reports of his correspondents.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* Did you make any enquiry whether the peon made any such representation?

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* Was it reported that the peon did not say like that?

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Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes. The Tahsildar enquired and reported.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam):* Will the Government be pleased to see that true facts are sent to the papers when it is found that the reports of their reporters and correspondents are false? If something could be done in the matter it would be much better.

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is not possible to contradict every statement that is made in the Press with reference to anybody.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* With this information collected by the Hon'ble Member for Revenue that the Tahsildar did not give any blank paper and that the peon had not made that statement referred to in the article and with the name of the correspondent being also disclosed by the editor, was any action taken against the co respondent?

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* No action was taken.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* Should it not have been taken, Sir.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Are not such articles being published in the Madras papers also? Are not the Government aware of it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* The Government are not aware of it.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Are not the Government readers of the Madras dailies?

Rama Varmha Tamuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Have they not seen such articles in the papers?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* We do not find in the Madras dailies allegations of this sort.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Allegations not about the Cranganur incident, but about other allegations. Do not the Government think that the Press should have such privileges?

Mr. President: Order, order. There is no question of depriving the Press of any of its privileges.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* One Hon'ble Member wants to curtail the freedom of the Press.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Irinjalakkuda):* Certainly not, only false reports must be curtailed. If you are fond of false reports, well and good.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* A case will not stand in the Court. Government knows that well.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The Hon'ble Minister.....

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member is not entitled to ask questions of ex-Ministers.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I am not asking a question of him. I am putting the question, when the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development was functioning as such, is the Government aware whether the transferred half had taken any action against any paper in similar instances. We used to see so many things about the transferred departments in various papers of the State. Is there one instance of action of the sort mentioned by the Hon'ble Member for Irinjalakkuda being taken by the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development? I should like to know from the Government.

Rao Sahib C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I will give you notice.

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256. മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. കൊച്ചുകുട്ടൻ : താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും സദയം മറുപടി പറയുമോ.—

സർപ്ലൈഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും ഏതെങ്കിലും അധഃകൃതകോളനികളിൽ സൌജന്യമായി പാൽ വിതരണം ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടോ?

റാവുസാഹിബ്ബ് എം. എം. പോൾ : ഉവ്വ്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഏഴ കോളനികളിൽ വിതരണം നടത്തി വരുന്നുണ്ട്. കൂടാതെ ആറു കോളനികളിൽ കൂടി വിതരണം നടത്തുന്നതിനും ആലോചിച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. കൊച്ചുകുട്ടൻ: ഈ കോളനികളിൽ സംരക്ഷണവകുപ്പുവഴിക്കാണോ വിതരണം ചെയ്യാൻ ഏല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു?

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